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One Orchestra May Yet Supply Music for Nation

The day may yet come when the whole country will be able to sway to the music of a single orchestra. The Hotel Commodore in New York City has just completed the installation of a radio receiving set and a loud speaking telephone outfit that is attracting considerable attention, particularly among the dancing masters of the East and others who see in it the possibilities of buying their music from one central source just as they obtain their light and heat and power.

The amplifying and loud-speaking apparatus, which has been installed by the Western Electric Company as part of the permanent equipment of the hotel, is similar on a smaller scale to that used at Madison Square Garden on Armistice Day when 38,000 people in and about the building were able to take part in the service. Projectors have been placed at various points in the ball room and connected through vacuum-tube amplifiers to the radio set. The antenna on the roof of the hotel picks up music sent out by the broadcasting stations and passes

the waves through an ordinary type of receiving set in which they are amplified. The power amplifiers then increase the strength of these signals.

"I have been much interested in this demonstration of dance music by radio," says Joseph O'Brien, President of the Dancing Masters Association, in discussing the Commodore equipment. "First class music for dancing is essential if we are to please our patrons and this kind of music costs us real money. It is an obvious waste for a hundred academies to employ a hundred orchestras if they can connect by radio with a central station which transmits dance music. If such a station were established, it could readily afford the best orchestra in the world—one made up entirely of top-notchers. Yet the cost to each subscribing academy would be less than its present pay-roll. Of course, this would not eliminate local musicians because there always will be a need for them to furnish music for instruction and special dancing."